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The Immigration Know-Nothing Bill.

ATTENTION CONGRESSMEN!

That self-constituted coterie of eleven Boston Yankee Know-Nothings, who are the instigators—in fact the authors—of all Lodge and McCall Kaow-Nothing bills, better known as the Boston Immigration Restriction League, have issued a new circular, which they have sent to all Senators and Representatives.

This circular is full of ingenious falsehoods and misrepresentations designed to mislead Congressmen. With big headlines they announce for instance that "the Germans and Scandinavians are not affected;" that the bill is only directed against Russians, Poles, Hungarians, Italians, etc. The object of that assertion is to make the Senators and Congressmen believe that the German, Scandinavian and Irish voters will not feel offended and vote against those who have favored the McCall bill.

If their assertion is true, then, we ask, why are the hundreds of German, Scandinavian, Irish and other papers of that class so bitterly and vehemently denouncing the Lodge-McCall bill? Why is not one of their papers in favor of that bill?

Why are all the German, Irish and Scandinavian societies, religious and secular, sending petitions, signed by thousands, to Congress protesting against the passage of this bill, if the latter does not affect the Germans, Irish and Scandinavians? Why are, in various parts of the country, large meetings held which denounce the Lodge bill as an outrage against the honor and prosperity of the country, and a miserable exercise of descendants of the fathers of the Alien and Sedition laws, the Hartford Convention and Know-Nothingism of 1855?

No, the German and Irish and Scandinavian American citizens understand too well the real meaning of that Boston League! They know that this is only the beginning of a new small-souled and contemptible crusade against a policy to which must be chiefly ascribed the unparalleled rise, greatness and prosperity of this country. Without immigration since 1790, the 3,350,000 inhabitants then here could never number, with all the negroes in addition, more than 25,000,000 in 1890, instead of 65,000,000—and that would be an increase of over 600 per cent., something which no other country can in reality show. Hence 40 millions of the 65 millions of the last census are immigrants and their descendants who came in since 1790. We are told that Mr. McCall, who introduced the bill in the House, is one of those descendants!

And now, when all the population which you have could be located comfortably in one of your States, Texas, you want to close the doors, and, by submitting them to a miserable educational humbug, humiliate those immigrants who want to help you to develop the land.

More than that, whilst you want to keep the Caucasian out, you now wish to annex Islands full of Kanakas and Asiatics, amongst the latter the highly educated Chinese by the thousands!

And who are those eleven Boston statesmen? Everyone of them a Republican. Who are their employers and agents? Messrs. McCall, Lodge and almost all other Republican Senators and Representatives.

And the Democrats—who all ways have been the friends of the immigrants—Where are they? Will they, too, follow that Boston

Eleven and join the Republicans in this miserable crusade?

There are laws enough to keep out undesirable immigrants. Indeed immigration is now falling off fearfully. German immigration "whom it does not affect," has dwindled down to less than 20,000. Other countries offer them all kinds of attractions and inducements to shun this inhospitable land, where they are at their arrival imprisoned at the lousy Barge office and otherwise badly treated. Their own home governments try hard to keep them away from here and induce them to go elsewhere. Nor can any adopted citizens, after such disgraceful laws are on the statute, if they have any self-respect, send for their relatives. All they can and will do is to vote those who have passed such laws into everlasting perdition!

That Boston League wants then to persuade Congress that the whole movement against the Lodge bill is the work of the foreign steamship companies. To believe this would be an insult of the grossest kind to the 8,000,000 Germans and their children and the millions of Irish and Scandinavian citizens!

There is but one feeling of disgust and indignation filling the breasts of all those millions. Not one of their papers differs with them. It is ridiculous to think that foreign steamship companies could be the authors of that general feeling against these movements.

Democrats, be true to yourselves! Stand by your old colors and kill that iniquitous measure! Your reward at the next elections will not be wanting, if you do your duty, and convince the millions of adopted citizens that you still are their bulwark.

The Senate's Closed Doors.

The Senate, says the Springfield Republican, refuses to debate the Hawaiian treaty with open doors. This treaty turns the nation from its long settled policy of maintaining a compact and homogeneous landed estate into a career of territorial acquisition and colonial conquest whose end no man can tell. No question has been presented in many a day touching so closely the integrity and future of the Republic. But the people are to have no deciding voice in a matter of such vital import. They are not even to be allowed to hear the discussion on which the final and irrevocable disposition of the discussion is to turn. The Senate, itself a popularly unrepresentative body, will proceed with closed doors. The Chief Executive, un-instructed by the people, negotiates a treaty reversing a long established and vital national policy, and it is whisked into a secret conclave of Senators to be adopted or rejected. The situation at Washington reveals in startling light the fact that under the Constitution of the nation the people have been given no voice in the disposition of certain questions of the most fundamental consequence to the Government. In a boasted government of the people, supposedly deriving all of its powers from their consent, the people stand voiceless and helpless.

The Almighty Dollar.

President McKinley "rejoiced greatly," Secretary Bliss was "delighted" and Republican politicians everywhere threw their caps for joy.

Why? Because the last hope for averting a degrading calamity from the great State of Ohio was fading away.

Because the last obstacle to the triumph of a boodle fund raiser, a patron and protector of bribe givers and bribe takers, of Demases, Wimberleys and Cohens, was being removed by bribery and corruption.

Because this representative of all that is mean and low and vile in our politics was practically assured a seat in the Senate of the United States—the seat of Wade and Corwin, of Chase and Thurman, of Pendleton and Sherman.

Because all that is high and noble and patriotic in the intelligent and progressive State of Ohio was prostrate beneath the heel of Hanna, triumphing not through brains but through boodle, and boodle only!

The Administration rejoiced while every patriot's cheek was flushed with shame and every patriot's heart was filled with forebodings.

A great day for the dollar. But a sad, shameful day for democracy.

Spain's Groundless Hopes.

The long period of anxiety and depression in Madrid over the desperate condition of affairs in Cuba seems to have been succeeded by a momentary reaction of confidence, or, at least, of hope.

On what solid foundation, however, it is based we cannot discover. There seems to be several minor contributory items which have been seized upon and combined, in order to make current facts appear to conform to Spanish wishes. First, there is the formal establishing of the new system of autonomy, to which distance may lend an aspect of importance in Madrid that it does not have in Havana. Then there is the raising of funds for the new year and a mobilization of new troops for the island, which denote vigor and activity. The announcement, too, that General Blanco will take the field and the statement of what he will try to do have undoubtedly produced some effect. Finally, authentic accounts of sundry submissions of insurgents have been magnified into affairs of consequence. Taking a few of these favorable points together, some of the Madrid optimists seem to believe that the revolt will be over before summer comes.

But there will be a rude awakening from any such dream. The few minor points just spoken of are of little moment compared with the fact that Blanco makes no head whatever against the revolt. The very last great event of the campaign was the defeat of Pando in Santiago de Cuba; while General Blanco's schedule of proposed operations is nothing but victories discounted on paper. The raising of funds to feed, clothe and pay the troops is a simple necessity, even if they accomplish nothing, while the reinforcements to be sent out are offset by the gaps in past service.

Spain has no real ground for her temporary reaction of hope. Surely we can all remember when, at the opening of the autumn of 1896, Minister Dupuy de Lome predicted that the rebels would be rapidly driven from the interior to the coast, where a cordon of gunboats would prevent their escape from the island. Weyler's boasts of what he would do also come to mind. The latest news is that the patriots have actually attacked Mayari, a port on the northern coast.

When Spain awakens from her present illusions, her disheartenment will be greater than ever. Peace may indeed come this year, but if it does, it will be on the basis of Cuba's independence.

The Law and the Sealskin Sacque.

There are bridges and ferries between the United States and Canada. There is an ocean ferry from New York to Europe.

Women stroll over the bridges and ride upon the Canadian ferries and go back and forth by steamships. The weather being sharp, these women wear their sealskin jackets.

Here comes in the law. If these women pass the border they must leave their cloaks behind on their return unless they have taken the precaution to have them certified as garments not made of seal-skins taken by pelagic sealing.

What idiocy is all this! What intolerable interference with individual liberty! What oppression!

Yet it is the law of the land—a law made solely to secure an absolute monopoly to a single company of very rich speculators. Every travelling woman in the country must be harassed in order that these monopolists shall enjoy the privilege of exclusively selling sealskins.

There was a time in American history when American women sealed up their tea caddies and drank water for the sake of liberty and personal right. Why don't they now abandon sealskin for a like patriotic purpose? There are other furs, and there is always wool.

The women can end this thing if they will, but they cannot wipe out the deep disgrace of the abominable enactment.

FRESH charges against Demas have been sent to Washington. They are unnecessary. Demas is so scandalous a person that he would never have been appointed by the President at all except in fulfillment of a disgraceful bargain for McKinley in the convention. In the matter of carrying out Hanna's bargains and purchases Mr. McKinley long ago laid shame aside.

Vatican and Quirinal.

There are in Rome, says the English Illustrated Magazine, two seats of sovereign authority—the Vatican, or the palace of the Pope; the Quirinal, or the palace of the King. Twenty-seven years ago both palaces were Papal, and today the Papal inscriptions remain over the doors of the Quirinal. You see them on the clock tower in the courtyard; you see the Papal insignia in the State apartments; the reminders of the Popedom confront at every turn the representatives of the monarchy. The Quirinal was until 1870 the summer palace of the Popes, although for several years before that time it had not been much used by Pius IX. Before the Government seized the property and established there the residence of the King, the Pope had caused the Quirinal to be stripped of its treasures, so that there remain from the Popedom's occupancy only the decorations upon the walls and ceilings. These have remained untouched.

Humbert may or may not believe that he is King by Divine right. It is hardly probable that he does believe it. He has been reminded often enough that the House of Savoy came to the throne of Italy on the crest of a series of revolutions in which his father, Victor Emmanuel, had won enormous popularity. Victor Emmanuel was a splendid soldier and a capable statesman. The men by whose names the Italian patriots conjure—Mazzini, Garibaldi, and the rest—did not lead the Italian revolt because they wished to present the house of Savoy with the throne of Italy. Victor Emmanuel knew that well enough, and his son, the present King, knows it. The revolution was founded on the aspirations of the people. The monarchy was the result of a chain of political accidents. Humbert's son, the Prince of Naples, bears the name of his illustrious grandfather—he is called Victor Emmanuel. He is twenty-eight years of age, but as yet he is an uncertain quantity in the political calculations. He is adored by his mother, and she is a brilliant, beautiful, and a good woman; but he has not yet given a reason why he should be adored by the people. His marriage rather more than a year ago to the beautiful Princess Helen of Montenegro was, however, distinctly popular. He is an officer in the army, and an accomplished horseman. His position prevents him from taking a hand in the political game, and there is hardly anything for him to do except to be ornamental. He has not yet become a counter in the play.

There is to-day in Italy a magnificent opportunity for a great man who is also a great patriot. King Humbert is a patriot but not a great statesman. For statecraft he has neither the inclination nor the genius. They seem to think in Italy that he might have done more than he has to extricate the country from the lamentable maze of complications in which it finds itself. Perhaps they forget that, after all, King Humbert is a constitutional, not an absolute, monarch, and that his powers are limited, and that his duty is to reign, not to govern. On the other hand, they know that Victor Emmanuel was also a constitutional king, but that, in spite of the limitations thereby imposed upon him, he directed affairs. Victor Emmanuel had a masterful will. He had what we like to call "backbone." He parlayed himself, and he was partly thrust to the headship of the State. As he had absolutely led the country on the battlefield, so he undertook to lead it in legislation and diplomacy. He succeeded. He was a man of indomitable energy. His public principles were high, and he gave himself absolutely to what he conceived to be his duty. Humbert, though a strong soldier, is not a strong king. Were Italy in danger from an armed foe, he would ask no better fortune than to fight for her. He would be in the front of the fray, and he would give his life without fear and without regret. I am told by men who know him and who are attached to his cause that he would give up his kingship without regret, if he could do so honorably, and if the deed would benefit the country. He would rather be a general in his own army, than the sovereign of his State. What he cares for most are his army, his horses and the pleasures of the chase.

No one at the Quirinal is unconscious of the development of the democratic spirit in Europe, and it is no secret that there has been much uneasiness among what may be called the King's party during recent years. If the Quirinal represents any policy, it is the policy of holding on. But the Quirinal represents many others besides the King. There are many whose fortunes would fall with the fall of the House of Savoy. They represent a party which is not without influence in the State. Moreover, the relations between the Quirinal and the military power of Germany are friendly, and the party of the King not unnaturally look to Germany for support in the event of an Italian uprising. Whatever may be the King's personal views, his hands are bound to be forced some day, as Victor Emmanuel's were forced when he came to Rome. Without the House of Savoy there could be no king in Italy. Should that House fall, there is none other from which the Italians would care to choose a sovereign.

UNCLE SAM'S ISLANDS.

People generally are unaware that the United States owns many islands in the Pacific Ocean and the West Indies. They are mostly guano islands or have been so at one time. Recently a British vessel went about the Pacific picking up unimproved pieces of real estate after the good old British manner, and to the surprise of everybody—probably as much so to the United States Government as to that of England—it was found that many of the islands were already in the possession of this country and American citizens were living on them.

One of the prettiest of a law which still remains in force, declaring that any citizen of the United States who shall discover a deposit of guano on any "island, rock or key" may, at the discretion of the President of the United States, be considered as being part of the United States. The discoverer can sell the guano on his island only to citizens of the United States, and the price which he shall charge is regulated by law. Crimes committed on these islands are punished by the United States Government, and are considered as if they had been committed on an American vessel on the high seas. The President is authorized to use the land and naval forces to protect the discoverer and his heirs in their right of possession of these islands.

Under this law annexation to the United States went on rapidly in the Pacific and West Indies. Some of the guano islands were abandoned soon after their discovery, but of those taken possession of legally by the citizens of this country and still a part of it—unless the President chooses to relinquish the right—there remain sixty in the Pacific. The Pacific islands lie in the region of the equator. There is a group about 7,000 miles south of Hawaii and others are about 2,000 miles from Hawaii, over near the Gilbert Islands. Then there is Clipperton Island, southwest of Mexico. On the recent atlas published in Europe the island is marked as belonging to France. It is, however, a possession of the United States.

One of the prettiest of our island possessions of the United States in the Pacific is Christmas Island, which lies about 1,000 miles south of Hawaii. It is an "atoll," or ring of coral formation, about thirty-five miles long. In the center is a lagoon of water, which, if we may believe the affidavits of seafaring men, is so salt from constant evaporation that fish thrown into it become pickled and will keep for weeks even in that tropical climate. Near Christmas Island are the American islands of Palmyra and America. All these islands are rich in tropical vegetation and capable of supporting a considerable population.

PRINCESS AND NIHILIST.—Princess Salovskaja, who has just bought an immense estate and castle in Hungary, has had a most extraordinary career. She was arrested in 1881 in connection with the assassination of Czar Alexander. The daughter of one of the latter's favorite generals and personal aide de camps, she was twenty years ago one of the most brilliant and admired members of the Court of St. Petersburg. Imbued with some of the tenets of the Nihilist propaganda she rejected all offers of marriage, and after her father's death entered the St. Petersburg University, resigning her position as maid of honor to the late Czarina. Her association with the students, male and female, of the university, and her becoming still more deeply concerned in the Nihilist movement, and the result was that when the Emperor Alexander was blown to pieces she was arrested and kept in prison for about a year, and then banished to her large estates and ordered to live there under police supervision.

Much Tolstoisism led her while thus exiled to marry one of her domestics, a stableman named Andrei Soloviev, a perfect brute, who beat her unmercifully whenever he was drunk, which he was almost constantly. The authorities finally exiled the man to Siberia, whereupon the Princess asked for and obtained permission to follow her husband on his weary journey to the northern portion of Siberia, where she remained with him until his death two years ago. She thereupon returned to Russia, where, finding herself boycotted by all her relatives and by society, she ultimately sold her vast estates in the Novgorod district. She proposes spending the remainder of her days in Hungary. Although forty-five years of age, she is still remarkably beautiful.

EVERY SPAIN IS WAKING UP TO THE USES OF THE BICYCLE.

A retired Lieutenant Colonel was walking in his orange garden one day recently when four well dressed men entered, who, after bargaining with the old gentleman for his crop, bound and gagged him, broke at leisure in his presence, then broke open his furniture and walked off with \$7,000 he had in the house. They were pursued by a bicyclist, however, who caught up with them and secured their arrest.

OUR FOREIGN NEWS.

Translated and Selected from leading European papers for the SENTINEL.

ENGLAND.

THE DRINK OF NATIONS.

Times—London, Dec. 25

Why men drink alcohol, whether for good, bad, foolish or vicious reasons, is a question about which perhaps we shall never be able to agree. But what they drink—a matter of extreme interest at this convivial season—we are enabled to answer by means of a careful memorandum as to alcoholic beverages, the production and consumption of beer, wine and spirits in the chief European countries and in the United States, prepared by Mr. Bateman, the head of the commercial department of the Board of Trade. One fact clearly emerges from the returns. There is much talk of wine, but it is really an insignificant element of consumption in most countries; and there is no reason to think that the drinking of it is greatly increasing. To all appearances the future, even in the sunny south, belongs to beer and spirits. In 1895 there was not half a gallon of wine per head drunk in the United Kingdom; the quantity was less in the United States; it was in Germany, a wine growing country, only about a gallon a head. Only in France and parts of Italy and Spain is the consumption of wine considerable; in the first named country it was 27.50 gallons per head. The champagne drunk in England for revenue purposes, notwithstanding the high duty, almost a negligible quantity. The consumption scarcely averages a seventh part of a bottle a head. The increased duty on sparkling wines since 1892 does not, by the way, appear to have appreciably affected their importation.

Apparently the Englishman continues to drink in a steady fashion, without vacillation, the drink of his fathers. About 30 gallons of beer a head are made in England every year, and most of that is drunk here. In regard to the consumption of spirits there is no sign of any expansion such as is noticeable in other countries. The quantity drunk has increased little during the last ten years. * * * The Americans drink less than half as much beer as is consumed here. In fact, that country seems to be, for a time at all events, steadily treading the path of temperance. * * * The production and consumption of spirits in the United States has been for some years decreasing—in fact, it may be said generally of the three alcoholic beverages—wine, beer and spirits—the consumption of wine and spirits is distinctly decreasing, whilst the consumption of beer, having regard to the increase of the population, has not perceptibly increased. * * * Fiscal authorities in America, who attribute this falling off to depression of trade, are hopeful that people will drink more when they make more money. But the moralist may be pardoned for believing that a taste for bourbon whisky is not a necessary concomitant of better times. In America, and indeed, almost everywhere, the interests of the financier and the aspirations of the moralist in this matter do not exactly harmonize; Chancellors of the Exchequer being always tempted to hold with Mandeville that private vices are public benefits. We are a little too dependent on thirsty souls, and might be puzzled to puzzle to know what to do if they became sober.

Daily Chronicle—London, Dec. 25.

Mr. Bateman doubts the truth of the ordinary belief that the French have been in the habit of late years of importing foreign wines and re-exporting the same as French. This seems difficult to believe, but we lack the courage to dispute Mr. Bateman's statistics. The United Kingdom took about £10,000,000 worth of wine from France last year. Perhaps the most startling figures of the whole return are those upon the production and consumption of alcohols in France. These are divided under two classes, suggestively called "alcohols naturels" and "alcohols d'industrie." Up to 1854 little but genuine wine brands ("eau de vie de vin") that is, what was commonly known as cognac, was produced. When midweek made its appearance among the grapes the situation was completely changed, until 1895 the production of the genuine article was only 65,200 hectolitres, while the output of industrial brandy was no less than 1,977,000 hectolitres. Thus, as Mr. Bateman points out, 97 per cent. of the brandy produced in France was trade spirit, and not "eau de vie de vin." If this fact does not deter foreigners from drinking the poisonous concoction offered them as cognac and "fine champagne," we may add a little piece of our own statistics, namely, that the brandy which you get in your "petit verre" after dinner costs at Bordeaux six francs the dozen bottles, bottles and cases included.

French economists and reformers are of course wide awake to the unspeakable injury caused to the population by the alcoholic fumes it absorbs. * * * To all temperance reformers—whether local vestists, admirers of the Gothenburg system, bishops who desire church public houses, or high license advocates—the return will be found an arsenal of weapons for the defence of conviction or fact. Human nature being as we know it, and the consumption of alcohol in the United Kingdom being as we have stated it above, we fancy that the remark of the French economists about "innocuous drinks" will receive at least its due share of attention.

JAPANESE AFFAIRS.

Daily Chronicle—London, Dec. 29.

In Korea, Mr. J. McLeavy Brown, for years a member of the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs, has been acting as financial adviser to the King. Recently the Russian diplomatic agent in Seoul

sent to St. Petersburg a request, ostensibly by the desire of the King of Korea, for a Russian financial adviser, and accordingly a M. Alexieff arrived, and Russia announced that in future he would "advise" the Korean Government in finance and audit their accounts. It is not quite certain what has happened since, but we believe that Mr. McLeavy Brown has reported the matter, through Sir Robert Hart, the Inspector General of Customs, to the British Government, and quietly remains at his post ignoring M. Alexieff. * * * It is perfectly certain that we shall not allow Russia to coerce the Tsung Li Yamen into dismissing Sir Robert Hart and placing a Russian at the head of the Customs service.

The position and intentions of Japan are of much greater importance. Two things are obvious to anybody who closely follows Far Eastern politics, first, that Japan is aiming in all haste to oppose the ambitions of Russia; and second, that the present complication has come too soon for her convenience.

Yesterday, with much timeliness, appeared an interesting and valuable "Report on the State of Trade in Japan," by Mr. Hyvon Brenan, our Consul General there. It is full of statistics concerning the advance of Japan. For example, in twenty six years, that is, since the modern period began for Japan, her foreign trade has increased from \$8,000,000 to \$283,000,000. * * * Mr. Brenan foretells a coming period of financial stringency, with rapidly increasing taxation to maintain an equilibrium. "This cannot but react upon trade, and must also affect the position of the British merchant in Japan who, in two years' time, will pass under Japanese jurisdiction, and will have in common with the native to bear his share of the national expenditure." This mysteriously report makes it clear that the progress and enterprise and progress and courage of Japan have brought her to a critical point in her national history. She is, therefore, very unlikely to rush into unnecessary foreign complications at such a moment, and in the Marquis Ito, who will probably now return to power, we shall have an additional guarantee of a sober and wisely patrician policy.

Daily Graphic—London, Dec. 29.

Whether Germany has an understanding with England, or with Russia, or whether Japan inclines to Russia or to England, is impossible to tell. The British welcome to the German squadron at Portsmouth and Gibraltar would be significant, were it not for the Kaiser's speech the other day, in which he emphasized the identity of his views with those of the Czar. Again, the trend of Far Eastern politics during the last few years would incline us to regard a rapprochement between this country and Japan as a fundamental element of the situation; but here again we are warned against hasty assumptions by the very positive statement made by the Japanese Minister in Paris last week that the interests of his country were bound up with "une entente amicale avec la Russie." On the whole, we are still inclined to think that a great fuss is being made with very scant reason.

Daily Mail—London, Dec. 27.

Having saved China from Japan, Russia at once proceeded to take from her whatever seemed to secure the perpetuation of her own political ascendancy and the promise of a lucrative commerce. France was content with doing jockey work for Russia; Germany, whose only object was to prevent France enjoying a monopoly of Muscovite favors, got on her knees. And so, by the Cassini convention, no one was profited except Russia, who got the right to construct the Manchurian railway, the use of Port Arthur, and—Kiao Chau. * * * In the Far East the Kaiser saw England's commerce threatened by Russian annexation, or, at least, by the growth of Russian influence. He saw, too, Japan still sore after being robbed of her victory. These two powers must have a common cause, and, if he could not array them on his side, he could, at any rate, array himself on theirs. Hence the seizure of a port already hypothecated to Russia. By declaring himself Russia's rival, he proclaimed himself England's friend. So far the policy has not been very successful—for England is quite able to do her own work unaided; and it she needs an ally, Japan is at hand.

Daily Express—Dublin, Dec. 28.

As Russia is China's most powerful neighbor, and as England is her chief customer, trade rivalry between the two European countries has long been inevitable. As far as we are concerned, it might remain a peaceful and legitimate commercial rivalry. But Russia has chosen to use undue influence, and it is of our duty as well as of our advantage to resist it. It should be the policy of England in the present crisis to resist with determination the least encroachment upon her established rights, but not to be particularly anxious about extending an empire so vast as almost to be cumbersome. An Anglo-Japanese alliance offers possibilities as attractive for the purposes of peace as for those of war. Even Russian perseverance and guile in commercial matters could make little headway against the combined industry, enterprise, and wealth of England and Japan.

A correspondent of the Neue Wiener (Vienna), after an interview with M. Kurino, Japanese Minister in Paris, says: "The Minister considers it quite natural that the immense Celestial Empire should have an enormous attraction for all States anxious to increase their export trade, as is plainly to be seen in the rapid increase of foreign commercial houses in China. England has no less than three hundred and sixty-three; next comes Germany, which has ninety-nine, while Japan possesses eighty-seven, and the United States have forty. 'We Japanese are interested in the occupation of Kiao Chau, from the point of view of our commercial relations with China. The growth of German competition in China is by no means agreeable to us,

yet I do not think that our trade with that empire is endangered by Germany. We have an advantage over the Germans in being so near, our coast being only a few days' voyage from the Chinese one, and, besides this, it seems to me more important still that we oppose German trade by having many of our factories in China itself.' * * * M. Kurino remarked:—'Our relations with Russia are most friendly, and, I hope, will remain so. We, like Russia, have great interests in Korea, and, owing to the conciliatory spirit of Russian diplomacy, and of our own as well, I am convinced that no conflict will come out of the meeting of our respective interests. I do not see anything disturbing in the Russian occupation of the Chinese port. Russia clearly needed an outlet for her Siberian and Manchurian railways, as she wants to develop her trade and future industry in Eastern Asia. To us Japanese the completion of these railways can only be welcome, as they seem destined to open up new markets in Siberia for our industry too. Our interest, therefore, obliges us to maintain the most neighborly relations with Russia, but should any difficulties arise between us, the exceedingly friendly terms on which we are with France, which in South-Eastern Asia has the greatest interests to protect, would assure us her mediation.'"

Full Mail Gazette—London, Dec. 29. It is perhaps a good thing that the Japs will hardly be anxious to imperil those ironclads building in Europe, even in the face of the details of Russia's tightening grip on Korea. China, meanwhile, is waiting, partly to see what the eclipse of the sun will bring forth, partly what the mailed fist, now as near as Gibraltar, will do. But she is said to be getting very excited about Kiao Chau, though apparently not about Port Arthur; which in a way confirms the growing impression that Russia and Germany have not packed cards very thoroughly. The British squadron at Port Hamilton is well situated to await developments.

THE POWERS AND CRETE.

Daily News—London, Dec. 27.

Once more the ambassadors are said to be agreed upon a provisional scheme of autonomy for Crete. The basis of the agreement, our Rome correspondent adds, is understood to be the French proposals of last June. These were as follows:

1. Autonomy and neutralization of Crete, which shall continue to be a part of the Ottoman Empire.
2. Appointment by the Powers at a very early date, of a Governor belonging, if possible, to a neutral State.
3. Immediate elaboration of a system of appropriation of certain revenues of the island of Crete to the service of a loan of £2,000,000.
4. Formation of a gendarmerie composed of foreign elements, as homogeneous as possible, and Cretan elements, in proportions to be determined.
5. Concentration of the Turkish troops at a certain number of points in the island.
6. No change in the present state of things so far as the authority of admirals is concerned.

A good enough scheme, it would seem, for a provisional settlement. There are few men whose opinions on any Cretan question are so well worth having as those of Mr. Silliman. He was in the island through the struggles of 1866-7-8, and while an champion of their cause has always been a prudent and sagacious friend. It is satisfactory, therefore, to have a high testimonial from him in favor of Bonid Petritsch, who is now supposed to be the favorite candidate for the governorship of the island. Altogether, an excellent man for the post, it would seem.

Westminster Gazette, Dec. 29.

Crete now shares with China the distinction of having furnished us with a Christian puzzle. The situation in the Far East is difficult to understand, in the absence of any clue to what Great Britain's policy is to be, but for sheer puzzlement the Near East easily bears off the honors. We are all aware that the question of the title "considered" by "to make" is preferred to call upon Federal calls the Concer.

If we thought that it was care for the Cretons that caused the delay we should the less resent it, but the truth rather seems to be a want of decent co-operation amongst the Concert in carrying out an object to which its members are irrevocably pledged. We regret to see the Concert fritter away its general influence over a matter about which there ought really to be nothing like so much delay and difficulty.

North British Daily Mail—Dec. 27.

To Crete the Powers have given no peace but anarchy, and so jealous are they of each other that they cannot even agree upon the nationality of a governor, as the first step towards the establishment of some system of government in the island. For Armenia nothing whatever has been done. The Armenians are still at the mercy of the Sultan, with the heel of murderous tyranny on their necks, and their hand thousands dead unavenged. It has been the work of the Great Powers to secure the triumph of the Great Assassin. And Britain is one of the Powers, acting as the humble servant of the others, assenting to their decisions, and doing their dirty work. Never did the reputation and influence of this country lie so low. Lord Salisbury has laid them in dust. He has made shameful sacrifices and settled nothing.

"Pinafore" discipline seems to rule on the Italian ironclad Lepanto. When in a Spanish port some time ago every one on board, from the admiral down, chipped in to buy a ticket in a Spanish Government lottery. The ticket drew a prize of \$200,000, which has been divided up among the officers and crew.